



For Immediate Release
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Delaware Annual Progress and Services Report Approved – Federal Grant Money Awarded

WILMINGTON - The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families' federally mandated Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) for Federal Fiscal Year 2005 has been approved by the US Department of Health & Human Services Regional Office in Philadelphia. The 2006 child welfare grant applications were also approved. The Children's Department will now receive its annual allotment of over \$2.2 million in federal grant money to provide services to Delaware's children and families.

The APSR details a system of goals, services, programs, accomplishments, and outcomes in the areas of child safety, permanency and well-being. Delaware was commended for: conducting System of Care training for all Children's Department staff and continuing training to further build a System of Care; the expanded home-based intensive outpatient mental health treatment; start-up of home based intensive mental health outpatient treatment for children with mild to moderate mental retardation/developmental delays; Individual Residential Treatment; and the successful interagency collaboration that resulted in a three-year \$300,000 grant from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for developing family psycho-education on children's mental health. The U.S. DHSS also recognized Delaware's accomplishments related to permanency outcomes related to foster care. The First State exceeds the national standard of children in foster care who are reunited with family in less than 12 months (89 percent versus the national standard of 76 percent).

"The approval of the Annual Progress and Services Report is further proof that we are meeting the expectations of the federal government, of our Governor, and most importantly, our children," said Cabinet Secretary Cari DeSantis. "Under the guidance of Governor Minner and with the assistance of our many dedicated partners, we have worked hard to improve our child welfare system to serve today's children and their families."

The Delaware Children's Department provides leadership and advocacy for Delaware's children. The Department's primary responsibility is to provide and manage a range of services for children's who have experienced abandonment, abuse, adjudication, mental illness, neglect, or substance abuse, while endorsing a holistic approach to enable children to reach their fullest potential. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.de.us/kids/>. To view the full report, please visit http://www.state.de.us/kids/pdfs/fs_apsr_2005.pdf

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